



Mitcham



Preschool
Centre

Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 1
Newsletter 5

This week at kindy

This week is week 6. How the tem is flying by.

We will continue on with our focus of learning

"Literacy in the garden"

We had initially focussed our learning on fiction texts, but are now moving onto explore "information texts".

So over the next 2 weeks, we will focus our inquiry question on "What else do we use books for?". In our groups we will look at a range of information texts that relate to the garden. As part of this focus we will also look at recipe books. To support our learning over the next 2 weeks we will have inside

- Play dough with stove and recipe books (sensory / literacy / dramatic play)
- Box making (problem solving)
- The Gingerbread man story table (dramatic play / language)
- Science table—seed growing (understanding our world)
- Still life painting of pumpkins (creativity / observational skills)
- Rhyming words at the writing table (literacy/ fine motor)
- Small easels with craypas (fine motor)
- Butterfly painting (fine motor / creativity)
- Seed sorting (fine motor)
- Rocks, little trucks in tray (dramatic play)
- Outside there will be
 - Slack line challenge (gross motor)
 - Rhyming word hunt (literacy)
 - Beach play in the sandpit with umbrella, chairs etc (sensory)
 - Water tray with sea animals (sensory)
 - Painting at easels (creativity)
 - Home corner with pets (dramatic play)
 - Floor puzzles on mat (problem solving)
 - Trampoline (gross motor)
 - Garden shop with gardeners & florists (dramatic play)
 - Green grocer (dramatic play)
 - Pulleys in the sandpit (gross motor)
 - Construction set (problem solving)
 - Water painting (dramatic play / sensory)

This Thursday and Friday, we will also roast and mash pumpkin grown in our own vegie garden.

It's another very busy 2 weeks at preschool.

If your child has information texts that relate to the garden, please don't hesitate to bring them in to share. Please make sure their name is clearly marked

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Fine motor skills

During week 5 (and in week 6) we are informally assessing all children in literacy / numeracy and fine motor skills. Once all the assessing is completed, staff will make time with you to have a conversation about your child's progress. One aspect that we noticed that many children had trouble with, is in their fine motor development. That is the ability to hold and manipulate pencil, textas and

Just a thought Supporting pencil grip

We have noticed over the past few years, as iPads & touch phones have become part of children's world, there has been an increase in the number of children commencing preschool with limited fine motor skills. For many children, they prefer to spend time on touch devices playing games, rather than using good old fashioned paper & textas. An iPad or touch phone provides children with instant satisfaction. However, if they have limited grip strength & control in using writing tools, it is hard work and they will avoid drawing & writing. iPads are great for learning about the world. However, they don't teach our children how to hold & use pencils & scissors—necessary for school & life. Allow your child the time to use iPads & touch phones. But also provide them with the opportunity to use pencils, textas & scissors in preparation for tasks at kindy & then at school.

scissors successfully. Fine motor skills are so important not only for preschool, but school and in life. I have included some information with this newsletter on fine motor development and some activity ideas to assist you at home. However, we will provide you with verbal feedback via our conversations over the next few weeks.

What textas etc help pencil grip?

To help support an appropriate grip, it is important to make sure that children use pencils & textas etc that will enhance their development.

Faber-castel have 3 sided pencils (triangle) that automatically put a child's fingers in the correct position. They are not expensive and can be purchased from "Big W". Fat textas are also more beneficial to developing children's pencil grip instead of thin textas. Faber castel have some textas that click together. There are thin and fat textas. The fat textas are the better ones to purchase. A thin texta will not be as easy to use as a fatter texta. Again these textas can be purchased from Big W.

If you have any questions about the appropriate writing tools, please see one of the staff.

Incursion / excursion levy

An excursion / incursion levy is included in each term's fees giving us a total of \$80.00 per year per child to spend on excursions (eg bus fares / entry into events), incursions (guests such as Trent Hill, Ruth Tuck Art school), special events (eg pizza lunch after wheels day) Each year our events change depending on our focus's of learning. However, the levy over the year, covers all curriculum events and there is no extra to pay.

In term 1, the levy covers our excursion to the Botanical Gardens and our wheels day pizza lunch.

Please see me if you need any further information or have any queries on the excursion / incursion levy.

Pupil Free days

At Monday nights meeting the Governing Council approved the following pupil free days

Term 1—Monday April 3rd
Term 2—Tuesday June 13th
Term 3—date to be advised
Term 4—Monday November 6th.

On each of these dates, there **will not** be any pre-school sessions. The staff will be participating in professional development.

Children's work folders

Have you looked at your children's work folder located in the literacy room? Over the term, (and year) we will continue to add examples of children's work, learning stories and children's voice photos to the folders. Currently, everyone has 2 learning stories—one on "transitioning into preschool" and the other one is about the vegie garden, to tie in with our focus of Learning "Literacy in the Garden".

The children have completed a drawing of themselves for their

folder. Some children have added other work they have completed such as the still life paintings or writing or drawings. The work children completed which is displayed in the room will also go into the folders, later in the term. Please come and look through the folder with your child. They will be excited to share it with you.

Parking bikes

A number of children ride their bikes or scooters to kindy each day. It's great to see children engaging in physical activity, developing coordination skills and enjoying the outdoor environment.

We do have a problem with parking bikes at kindy. Last year we applied for a grant to erect bike racks hopefully by the peach tree near the entrance gate. But we weren't successful.

For safety reasons, please **do not** park the bikes or scooters between the 2 gates. It makes entering and exiting the centre con-

gested and creates an injury risk for children and adults (tripping and falling on the bikes). Parking bikes etc inside the preschool is an issue as children are very tempted to ride the bikes.

We are asking parents to park their child's bikes outside the gates. You will need to have a padlock and chain to attach them to the fence.

Thank you for your support.

RAN-EC training reminder

RAN-EC training for volunteers is next week, Tuesday March 14th, 7pm—9pm.

If you wish to volunteer on excursions, funtastics motor coordination program, walks, cooking at preschool, you will need to have attended this course.

Please return the tear off slip by this **Friday March 10th**, to indicate whether you will be attending the evening.

If you have already attending RAN-EC at another site (eg your child's

school) you just need to provide me with a copy of your certificate. Please remember, it is DECD policy for all volunteers to attend the training if you wish to volunteer. Without attending the training, you cannot volunteer.

Please note, Attendance at Wheels Days, Special Persons Day, End of year celebration days etc do not require the RAN-EC training as you are not working directly with the children.

Diary dates

Week 7

Tuesday March 14th—RAN -EC training for volunteers to be held at the preschool from 7pm—9pm.

Week 8

Wednesday March 22nd—Gold group wheels day TO BE HELD AT MITCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday March 23rd—Blue group wheels day TO BE HELD AT MITCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOTES OUT THIS WEEK

Week 9

Wednesday March 29th—Botanical Gardens / Little Sprouts excursion for gold group

Week 10

Monday April 3rd—Information evening for parents / carers on the Child Protection Curriculum which is the focus of learning for term 2.

Tuesday April 4th—Botanical Gardens / Little Sprouts excursion for blue group

Week 11

Tuesday April 11th—end of term celebration for blue group—teddy bears picnic

Wednesday April 12th—end of term celebration for gold group—teddy bears picnic

Thursday April 13th—last day term 1.

Boxes, Boxes, Boxes

We have plenty of large boxes at the moment. **NO MORE LARGE BOXES PLEASE.**

We can do with more smaller boxes eg biscuit, cereal, toothpaste etc. Thank you for collecting boxes.

Dental Clinic

Keep your kids smiling

SA Dental Service

Have you received a letter from Medicare about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule? The School Dental Service is a Child Dental Benefits Schedule provider.

Dental care is FREE for ALL babies, pre-schoolers and most children under 18 at the School Dental Service.

Please call now for an appointment.
Mitcham School Dental Clinic
Phone: 8271 0371

Outdoor area

At last our outdoor area redevelopment plans are "finalised". Many thanks to Jaquie Hagan (a past parent) who has worked tirelessly on these plans for us. The plans have been provided to the landscaper for costings. They have also been submitted to DECD and the Mitcham Council for approval. We are also waiting on replacement of our western fence, then we will be ready to commence the work.

We are very excited about our revamped outdoor area. I will put the plans out at the end of each day, over the next week for you to view.

Very tired children

We are now in week 6 and the middle of term 1. The children this week have been very tired, so much so, that "B" choices have been a big part of our conversations (and their behaviour) and along with encouraging the "A" choices.

I hope the children get some rest this long weekend, time to rest, relax and to recover for the last half of the term.

Nutrition Policy

Our nutrition policy was developed with consultation between the Governing Council and staff. It is reviewed every 2 years (last reviewed in October 2016)

In line with the DECD initiative (*Right Bite* strategy) our aim is to promote healthy eating ideals amongst preschool children.

"Healthy eating supports children's learning, health & well being"

Built into our policy is a clause where up to twice each term, we have opportunity for "sometimes food". This term we will have sometimes food when we have pizza after wheels day. (and iceblock during wheels day) The second occasion will be on the excursion, where parents may allow children to have a sometimes food in their lunch box. It will be a highlight of the occasion!!

Yoghurts

Please remember we encourage you to send yoghurts in a nude food container or tub, rather than the squeeze yoghurt containers. A few years ago a child choked on the lid from a squeeze bottle, having removed it with his teeth. We believe that yoghurts are an important part of a child's dietary intake each day, but not in the squeeze bottles at preschool. For everyone's care and wellbeing, we appreciate your support.

This week we are not having the "Calling all gardeners" activity on the verandah. We will resume the activity soon. (Just thought with the long weekend coming up, we wouldn't have time next week to find out our answers)

We found out, that last week there were 102 objects in jar 1 and 80 objects in jar 2. We had to do lots of counting.

Finally, thank you as always for your continued support. It is very much appreciated. Kind regards
Chris, Laura, Amber, Carol, Robyn, Lyn and Pat